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Lord Mayor, for his upright and impartial conduct this day.

Resolved—That the thanks of the Common Hall be given to Samuel Birch, esq. and William Heygate, esq. Sheriffs, for their prompt attention to the directions of the Common Hall, at their last meeting.

Resolved unanimously—That the thanks of this Common Hall be given to Robert Waithman, esq. and Samuel Favell, esq. for their uniform and steady attachment to the rights of their fellow-citizens, and for their zeal and abilities displayed on the present occasion.

WOODTHORPE.

T. N. WILLIAMS, Clerk Com. Hall.

Belfast, April 3, 1812.

At a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Sovereign, Burgesses, Merchants, Manufacturers, and other inhabitants of the town of Belfast, convened by public advertisement, the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

THOMAS VERNER, esq. Sovereign,

In the Chair:

Resolved—That in the present distressed state of the commerce and manufactures of the United Kingdom, it is incumbent on the Legislature to adopt the most effectual measures for their relief.

Resolved—That the discontinuance of the commercial monopoly of the East India Company, would be a most important measure of this kind.

Resolved—That the monopoly, granted by charter to the East India Company, is impolitic and unjust; impolitic, as it is impossible that the Company can carry on the trade to the same extent or advantage, that private individuals could; and unjust, as it deprives all the other subjects of the British Empire of their natural rights; at the same time that this privilege is granted to foreign nations, in amity with his Majesty.

Resolved—That if it were possible to entertain a doubt respecting the superior competency of British individuals to carry on an extensive trade to the East, the example afforded by the United States of America completely removes it; and the supposed delicacy of allowing a trade with China, is entirely done away, by the success which has attended the American traffic to that country.

Resolved—That in no point of view can there be a reason for granting a monopoly to the East India Company; because, if the

trade can be carried on by them to greater advantage, than by individuals, they can have nothing to fear from competition; and if they can so carry it on, they ought not to be permitted to retain such monopoly, so highly detrimental to the inhabitants at large of the United Kingdom.

Resolved—That, confining the India trade to the port of London, is injurious to the other parts of the United Kingdom; as they are unnecessarily subjected to the excessively heavy expenses of that port, besides many other charges, consisting of commissions, freights, insurances, &c. &c.

Resolved—That it is the opinion of this meeting, that petitions should be presented to both Houses of Parliament, praying that they may reject the application of the East India Company for the renewal of their charter, to the exclusion of the other subjects of the British Empire.

Resolved—That the Marquis of Donegall be requested to present our petition to the house of Lords, and Sir Edward May, Bart. Member for this town, to the house of Commons; and that copies be forwarded to the Marquis of Hertford, and Earl O'Neill; and to the Members for this County, the Hon. John O'Neill, and Edmund Alexander M'Naghten, esq. requesting their support to the same.

Resolved—That this meeting do approve of the petition now read, and that the Sovereign be requested to sign it in the name, and on behalf of the Sovereign, Burgesses, Merchants, Manufacturers, and Inhabitants of Belfast.

Resolved—That the proceedings of this meeting be twice published in both the Belfast Newspapers, and in two Dublin papers, *The Evening Post and Correspondent.*

The Sovereign having left the Chair, and Robert Bradshaw, esq. having been called thereto,

The thanks of the meeting were unanimously voted to the Sovereign, for his readiness in convening it, and for his very proper conduct in the Chair.

R. BRADSHAW.

MANCHESTER, 25th MARCH, 1812.

At a most numerous and highly respectable meeting of the inhabitants of Manchester, convened by the Boroughreeve and Constables, pursuant to a requisition, to consider of the propriety of petitioning Government to discontinue such parts of the East India Company's

Charter as exclude British Merchants from trading to the East.

The BOROUGHREEVE in the Chair.

It was unanimously resolved,

- That in the present circumscribed state of our commerce with the European continent, new markets are wanted for the maintenance of our manufactures.

- That even in the event of peace, the policy of France may render the European markets less accessible than formerly, and if new channels are not opened, our manufactures must be abridged in proportion to the lessened demand.

- That we consider a free intercourse with all the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope, as essentially necessary to the welfare of our commerce; and that we ought to use every possible exertion to obtain the exercise of that right, on the expiration of the East India Company's Charter.

- That progressively with their acquisitions of territory, the East India Company have deviated from their original character, of a corporation of merchants seeking profits by barter, and have assumed that of a sovereign power collecting its revenues.

- That thus the East India Company sell without reference to prime cost, many articles which they import into England, to the great prejudice of similar manufactures of this country, both in the home and foreign markets; whilst their exports have sunk into comparative insignificance.

- That we consider ourselves justly entitled to a free participation in the trade with all the prohibited countries, on the expiration of the company's charter, as to that with the West Indies, or any other of our possessions; and that a continuance of the prohibition will be highly injurious to the interests of the British Empire.

- That experience has proved the practicability of individual merchants carrying on a successful trade with those countries; which we are convinced may become immense marts for the sale of British manufactures, and supply valuable articles in return.

- That it is highly impolitic and unjust for any government, to allow to the subjects of a foreign power the advantage of a commerce which it denies to its own subjects.

- That from the unrivalled skill in seamanship, mechanism, spirit of enterprise, capital, and ingenuity of our countrymen,

we may confidently anticipate superior success, when the new field is opened to them.

- That it should be the great feature in the commercial policy of the present war to encourage and extend our trade to every quarter of the globe out of the reach of our enemy; in order to secure prosperity to our country, and ample employment to our people; and that by so doing, we most effectually frustrate the enemy's war on our commerce.

- That humble petitions be presented in the present session to the three branches of the Legislature, earnestly imploring them to secure to us a free trade to all the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope, which right will devolve to us on the expiration of the East India Company's Charter.

- That a Committee be appointed, and that subscriptions be immediately entered into, to carry the above resolutions into effect.

- That the committee consist of the Boroughreeve and constables for the time being, Messrs. Law, Peel, C. F. Brandt, Jas. Hibbert, Henry Farrington, Nathaniel Heywood, Wm. Fox, John Barton, Samuel Greg, G. A. Lee, F. Philips, John Douglas, P. Ewart, John Close, Thomas Fosbroke, Richard Rushforth, Thomas Atkinson, B. H. Green, Willi. m Leaf, Thomas Entwistle, Robert Peel, John Lomax, H H. Birley, and O. Wood, with power to add to their number, and that any five be competent to act.

- That the committee be authorised to appoint delegates, to correspond with the committees elsewhere appointed for the like purpose, to call general meetings of the subscribers, and to do all other acts which they may consider conducive to the attainments of the object of this meeting.

- That this meeting be adjourned to Tuesday, at this place, at eleven o'clock, to hear the petition read, and to take the same into consideration.

RICHARD WOOD.

The Boroughreeve having left the Chair, it was taken by Mr. Simpson, and

Resolved unanimously, 16. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Boroughreeve and Constables for their readiness in calling this meeting, and to the Chairman for his able conduct in the Chair

JOHN SIMPSON.

31st March, 1812.

At an adjourned meeting, held this day, the petitions were read, and the following resolutions passed unanimously:

That the petitions now read be adopted,

and that the committee be authorized to procure their presentation, when they may consider it most desirable.

That these resolutions be printed in all the Manchester, and in six of the London newspapers.

RICHARD WOOD.

BIRMINGHAM, MARCH, 31, 1812.

At a meeting of the Merchants, Manufacturers, and other Inhabitants of the town of Birmingham, duly convened by the High Bailiff, and unprecedented for numbers and respectability, held at the Royal Hotel, this 31st day of March, 1812, "To take into consideration the expediency of petitioning the legislature on the subject of the Orders in Council."

THOMAS ATTWOOD, Esq., High Bailiff, in the Chair.

Resolved, almost unanimously—1st, That it is the highest privilege, and the most important duty of British subjects, to 'dress the Legislature, whenever they perceive that any political measure is subversive of national welfare and security.'

Resolved, unanimously—2d, That the industry and ingenuity of British Manufacturers, aided by the spirit of our invaluable constitution, have produced those great mechanical improvements, and called forth that division of labour, which have given to the merchants of this country a pre-eminence in foreign markets, and have greatly contributed to support that naval superiority, which has hitherto constituted her strength and security as a nation.

Resolved, dissentient only two—3d, That not only the Revenue, but the very existence of society in its present state, in this country, depends upon the prosperity of our manufactures and commerce.

Resolved, dissentient only five—4th, That we view with the deepest regret, the present ruinous situation of the manufactures and commerce of the United Kingdom, and are decidedly of opinion, that the Orders in Council, by closing our commercial intercourse with the United States of America, are a principal cause of the evils we deplore.

Resolved, dissentient only two—5th, That we consider the system of Licences as a virtual acknowledgement of the impolicy of the Orders in council, giving relief to our inveterate enemy, affording a just cause of complaint to those whom we desire to consider as our friends, degrading to the character of the British

merchant, subversive of morality, and highly injurious to the navy of Great Britain. A system, which at the same time that it affords a partial and dear-bought assistance to the commerce of the metropolis, renders not the smallest relief to the distressed manufacturers of the United Kingdom

Resolved, dissentient only two—6th, That when nearly all the channels of our trade to the Continent of Europe are closed, the commerce of the East possessed by an exclusive monopoly, and our national expenditure unparalleled in the annals of the world, we deem it incumbent upon us to recommend to the consideration of our Legislature, the propriety of revoking those measures, which we conceive to have been originally contrary to the recognized laws of nations, inconsistent with principles of sound policy, and which threaten to involve us in a war with our most valuable commercial connexion, America, a country linked to us by the powerful affinities of common origin, similarity of language, laws, and manners.

Resolved, dissentient only three—7th, That the direct tendency of the Orders in Council is to force America upon her own resources, and to oblige her to become a manufacturing nation much earlier than in the natural course of events would be the case.

Resolved, unanimously—8th, That this town and neighbourhood, containing a most numerous population, and being unquestionably one of the most important manufacturing districts in the British empire, have greatly depended upon a friendly intercourse with the United States of America, and are suffering most severely under the operation of the Orders in Council.

Resolved, dissentient only three—9th, That if this destructive system be persisted in, thousands of our laborious and respectable mechanics, will inevitably be deprived of their present partial and precarious employment, and whilst we deplore their distressed situation, aggravated by the advancing price of every necessary of life, our concern is greatly heightened by the consideration, that the capital of our merchants and manufacturers is rapidly absorbing in stock, constantly depreciating in value, their ability to participate in the increasing burthens of the state proportionably diminishing, and their efforts consequently paralyzed, at a period when all practicable means should be resorted to,